



EXAMPLES OF CALUMET REGION PEOPLE*
WHO HAVE ACHIEVED NATIONAL PROMINENCE

(*Born, raised, or spent a significant part of career in the Calumet Region.)

Category	Person	Community
SPORTS		
Football, College	Tom Harmon, Heisman Trophy	Gary
Football, Pro	Ray Wietecha, perennial all-pro	East Chicago
	Dick Butkus Hall of Fame	Roseland ?
	Rudy Kuechenberg multiple play offs	Gary, Hobart
Football Coach, College	Frank Thomas, College Football Hall of Fame	Indiana Harbor
Football Coach, Pro	Hank Stram, Super Bowl	Gary
Basketball, College	Vladimir Gastrovich All American	Gary
Basketball, Women	La Taunya Pollard, voted best college player in nation	Indiana Harbor
Basketball, Pro	Vince Boryla, all-pro, coach, general manager, owner.	Indiana Harbor
Basketball, Show	Opal "Shag" Courtney, Harlem Globetrotters	Gary
Baseball, Pro	Lou Boudreau, Hall of Fame	Harvey
Baseball, Special	Don Larsen, Perfect World Series Game	Michigan City
Multiple Sports	Andrew Patterson Honored in Smithsonian	Indiana Harbor

Owner, Baseball	Charlie Finley, Multiple World Series Champions	Gary, La Porte
Track, Men	Lee Calhoun, Olympic Gold Medal	Gary
Track, College	Campbell Kane, NCAA Champion twice	Valparaiso
Track, Women	Elizabeth Robinson, Olympic Gold Medal twice	Riverdale
Boxing	Tony Zale, World's Middleweight Champion	Gary
	Jimmie Clabby, Consensus World's Middleweight Champion	East Chicago, Hammond
	Battling Nelson, World's Lightweight Champion	Hegeswick
Gymnastics, Women	Dianne Durham, Nation's best	Gary
Announcer, Network	Irv Cross	Hammond
" "	(Hank Stram)	Gary
" "	Fred "The Hammer" Williamson	Gary
Announcer, Baseball	Rich Rizzs, Voice of the Seattle Mariners	Blue Island

WRITERS AND ARTISTS

Short Fiction	Jean Shepherd	Hammond
Movies	Steve Tesich, Academy Award	East Chicago
Novels	Harry Petrakis	Dune Acres
	Nelson Algren	Miller Beach
Filmmaker	Melvin Van Peebles, First Black to direct feature-length motion picture	Harvey

Journalist	Walter Trohan, Head, Washington Bureau, Chicago Tribune	Hegeswisch
TV Director	John Chulay, Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore Shows	Indiana Harbor
Photographer	Johnny Bushemi, National publications	Gary
TV Anchor, Network	Frank Reynolds, Peabody Award	Indiana Harbor
Publisher	S. S McClure, McClure's Magazine and Syndicate, creator of "muckrakers"	Valparaiso
Columnist, Syndicated	Dave Broder	Chicago Heights
Presidential Press Secretary	George Reedy	Indiana Harbor
Artist, Oils	John Templeton	Indiana Harbor
Artist, Murals	Ernest Kanaz	East Chicago

POLITICIANS

Mayor	Richard Hatcher, Head, National Conference of Mayors; first black mayor of major city.	Gary
Presidential Cabinet	James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor	East Chicago
	Col. Lamont, Secretary of Commerce	Hammond, East Chicago

EDUCATION

University Founder	Henry Baker Brown, predecessor of Valparaiso University	Valparaiso
New School System	William A. Wirt, Platoon Schools, model for hundreds of schools.	Gary

ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz, Banjo	Eddie Condon, New York nightclub	Chicago Heights
Actor, Movies	Karl Malden, Academy Award	Gary
Actor, TV Series	Jack Hubbard	Indiana Harbor
Actress, Movies	Betsy Palmer	East Chicago
Actress, TV Series	Marilyn Collier	Indiana Harbor
Opera & Network Radio	Vivian dela Chiesa Madame Lajulia Rea, First black woman singer at the Met	East Chicago Robbins
Comedian, Stand-up	Tom Dreesen	Harvey
Radio Series	Richard Williams, Quiz Kid	East Chicago
Singer, Solo	Michael Jackson, Nation's top pop singer in multiple categories	Gary
Singer/Pianist	Stevie Wonder	East Chicago
Group, Pop	The Dells	Harvey
	The Jackson Five	Gary
Showgirl	Isabel May Mullhall, Floradora Girl	Hammond
Multiple Media	Alex Karras, movies, sports, TV features, TV network announcer	Gary

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Topography	Dr. J. Harlan Bretz, Creator of Topographical Theory of the Old Northwest, prior to development of aerial photography	Homewood
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	Alfred H. Meyers, Creator of Sequential Toponomy	Valpariso
Economics	(Name to Come), Nobel Prize	Olympia Fields
Transportation	Marcus Towle, Creator of Refrigerated Railroad Car Industry	Hammond
Space Flight	Frank Borman	Tolleston (Gary)
CRIME & ANTI-CRIME		
Gambling	Sonny Sheetz and Peck Gardner, operators of the "Big House"	Indiana Harbor
Gang Buster	Elliot Ness, Immortalized in the TV series, "The Untouchables"	Kensington
Organized Crime	Johnny Patton, Boy mayor, dog track operator, vehicle for Johnny Torrio's organization of crime in America	Burnham
Informer	Ana Cumpanas, "The Lady In Red"	Gary, Indiana Harbor
Reformer	Virginia Brooks, Leader of vice raids in Calumet City and Chicago, women's rights advocate, star of road show damning vice	Calumet City
	Lucy Page Gaston, coiner of "coffin nails"	Harvey
HEROES		
Secret Service	Vincent Mroz, Saved President	Indiana Harbor

	Truman's life	
Aviator	Alex Vraciu, Leading Naval Ace during World War II	Indiana Harbor
Marines	Emilio de la Garza, Congressional Medal of Honor	Indiana Harbor
COMMERCE		
Retailing	Alvah C. Roebuck, co-founder of Sears Roebuck & Co.	Hammond
Banking	James H. Bowen, founder of Chicago's Clearinghouse and two national banks.	Wildwood
	Chauncey Borland Blair Creator of what is now the Continental; creator of leg of first railroad into Chicago from the East	Michigan City
Transportation	George M. Pullman, Creator of the Palace Car	Pullman
Stocks and Bonds	Sidmond McHie, Creator of an alternative stock exchange in New York	Hammond
Steel	The Block Brothers, Creators of the world's largest single steel plant	Indiana Harbor
RELIGION AND CHARITY		
Social Work	Russell Ballard, first male head of Hull House	Indiana Harbor
Religion	Warren Wiersbe, International "Youth for Christ" organizer; pastor of Moody Church	Indiana Harbor
Charity	Col. Walter Riley, founder of hospitals and orphanages; made a	Indiana Harbor

Knight of Malta by the Pope, one of the few in the U.S.

Special

Father Campagna,
founder of
Hoosier Boys Town

East Chicago

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